A Song of the Eternal Grace, Love, and Mercy of God

By Christoph Schütz

1.

Now take to heart, you people, in these last days still

what God so faithfully declares—

Listen to what He speaks to you:

It is a word that now and forever gives a great deal to reflect upon to Christians, Jews, Turks, Heathens—to all people. A true word goes forth at this hour from His precious mouth of truth, a very righteous, true word, which shall remain forever, although many in this time, in every place, resist it.

Still it holds firm: that He is love,

and makes all creation new—

Believe it! This is His solemn vow.

2.

In the beginning, He made all things,

the great and small,

glorious, good, and beautiful.

It was His earnest will

that His rich fullness of love

should be open to all things,

and that all beings, at all times,

should love Him for His goodness

and give Him thanks,

joined together in His praise.

3.

This purpose must stand!

Even though—sadly!—it has happened,

as is plainly seen,

that many creatures

have ruined themselves through sin.

And there was a great separation

when sin—like a thief—

crept in and tore apart God and His creation,

so that His wrath was quickly kindled in them.

4.

Then they had no peace—

indeed, they raged in their folly

even against God and His Son.

Though He stood toward them in greatest friendship,

they brought upon themselves

the deepest woe and unheard-of suffering.

For they embraced sin as their mistress,

lived as slaves to it,

and were tormented under its dreadful tyranny.

5.

Yes! In such deep distress,

in such torment and deadly plight,

which sin had brought,

they would have remained forever,

ever driven to work the deeds of sin,

since no one could redeem themselves

by their own power.

Ah, but listen well:

how gracious God the Lord has always been—

in His Son, Jesus Christ.

6.

For when His creation was corrupted

and many had fallen away

from the life that was in Him,

this caused Him deep sorrow

in His faithful heart.

He took counsel within Himself—

what deed, what miraculous cure

could still possibly heal

His beloved creatures?

7.

Then it was decreed within Him:

that in His Beloved, His gracious and only Son,

Jesus Christ,

He would renew all things,

free them from curse and death—

everything that had been separated from Him.

8.

It was not too costly for Him,

but rather His firm, earnest will,

to give His Heart's own Child,

His dearest portion of the world,

as a gift for salvation—without delay.

9.

And this pure loving will

His Heart's Child also wanted to fulfill

at the very moment it was asked.

He willingly took upon Himself

this great work of mercy…

He received all power from the Father—

wholly and truly —

to make all things beautiful and new

and free them from corruption,

so that nothing would again

be subject to the curse.

His hand restores everything

to its original state.

10.

He shall now also reign,

and hold the kingdom

until all things are restored

that once were lost.

For this time is given

to complete His work

in the power of His love.

And when all is made well and new,

He shall hand the kingdom back

to the Father, at the end.

11.

Therefore God now offers peace

to all creation

in Jesus Christ, His Son.

All that was separated from Him

shall through Him be reconciled,

and gently rest in His love.

Sin, which caused the separation,

shall be utterly burned away—

with all its evil fruit,

which God has cursed—

and will be fully destroyed.

12.

God does not wish to bear enmity

toward His creation,

but only toward sin

and the works of the devil.

Against these He will wage war

until they are wholly consumed

by the strength of His love.

But His own work

He will remake in strength and power—

good and new,

and completely free

from death and the devil's tyranny.

13.

All that He did not create,

He will sweep away and destroy—

whatever it may be.

But His very good essence,

which flowed forth from Him,

He will make free from evil.

Not even a speck of dust

will be lost,

for it is imperishable.

Therefore, it shall shine again—

though the rust be burned away completely.

14.

In the fallen angels,

and in people full of faults,

all that is of the devil's essence

will be returned to nothing.

The good, however, shall remain—

be purified,

become clear and bright again in Christ.

15.

In Christ, their Head,

they shall again become one body.

He shall order all things beautifully,

like limbs joined to the body,

each in their proper place.

16.

He shall bless all the poor,

and have mercy

on all His works.

He shall be good to all,

rescue them from torment,

and pour into them

His life-giving sap.

So that they all, in unity,

shall receive healing and strength

through this noble stream,

and bring Him, with diligence,

thanks, praise, and glory.

17.

He shall rescue them all

from death,

and help them out of distress

by His mighty hand of love.

He shall redeem them from hell
and bring them into the light.
He shall restore all the land,
receive the scattered as His heirs,
bring back all the lost
into unity again.
18.
Yes, He shall judge—
and even hide His face
from those who do evil,
for a time, in wrath.
Then fear and distress
shall fall upon them,
as their wicked deeds
stand before them in the light,
and He exercises true justice,
delivering them to their grief
and their tormentors.
19.

He will send them to prison.

And if they will not turn to Him,

but resist even more,

then He will likewise turn against them—

meeting them with terror,

fear, and pain—

striking them seven times more

in their torment,

until they finally bow

and freely confess to Him

that He is righteous and holy.

20.

Then, when they are pitifully afflicted,

the blood of the covenant

shall come to their aid

and quench the fires of hell.

21.

Thus will He act,

until not a single creature

remains in any torment or pain.

His mercy will lead them to living waters

and feed them so that all shall be well again.

And when His power has gone that far,

He shall also abolish

every place of torment—

in the number of seven.

22.

He shall not rest from working,

but shall labor

until all things are again

freed from need and death—

glorious and beautiful—

renewed for the honor of His great name.

Through His own hand

He shall bring everything

into the condition of the beginning:

pure, good, and clear,

and shall preserve it forevermore.

23.

Then from every tongue

a new song shall be sung!

Yes—then shall every knee

bow most humbly before Him

and publicly confess

that He is the Lord,

and that they are His creation and work,

and that their strength,

their righteousness,

and their joy

are found in Him alone

in that day.

24.

Then all the choirs shall praise Him,

and give Him the highest honor.

Then every creature shall thank Him,

and sing praises to Him.

Whose heart would not leap

to think of the joy,

the delight,

the sweet loveliness

that shall fill all creation—

when great and small

join in a harmony of love?

25.

When the high Cherubim,

and the dear flaming Seraphim,

lift their voices on high,

and with all their choirs

honor the Lord Jehovah,

and when the chorus of virgins

gives a lovely echo,

and praises the Lord God

with them in joyful rivalry—

in such a place

where each desires to excel in love?

26.

When the Spirit of God

reveals itself in all,

according to His good pleasure,

to the praise of His glory—

so that they all together

sing sweetly,

hymns of praise to God and the Lamb

in wondrous harmony—

when all is renewed,

when all is filled with joy—

then I shall fully understand

the joy and delight

that already stirs now in my breast.

27.

You peoples in every place—

what are you doing?

Why do you resist

your Creator with word and deed?

Why do you harm your own heads,

like fools

who dash themselves against stones,

and bring upon themselves

great pain and grief—

never finding peace or rest?

28.

Let yourselves be wisely advised!

Turn from your evil deeds—

for truly, you will not succeed.

As long as you resist,

you shall be wounded,

and remain under God's wrathful judgment,

until you bow before Him,

until you incline your hearts to Him,

until you cry out

in true repentance and sorrow,

in grief, for grace and mercy.

29.

So, do repent—

and honor God's high grace

while it is still called “Today”!

Let yourselves be moved

by the Lord’s long-suffering,

you slothful ones!

Come, with truly broken spirits,

to the throne of God’s grace—

and kiss the Son,

who is appointed as the Savior of the world,

in whom the covenant and grace is held.

30.

Love Him—

the One who loves you!

And even if you have grieved Him greatly,

He still remains faithful and kind—

and He gladly desires

to give you life, yes, even…

31.

You’ve mostly turned away from Him—

whose image has grown faint within you.

Will you, through Jesus Christ,

be made new again and freed from destruction?

32.

I thank You with heart and mouth,

that You have sworn Your covenant of love to me.

33.

What foundation of love,

what words can express this?

You are pure Love—and You stir me

from deep within to love You, sweetest Love!

Highest Good, let Your flame of love

ignite me wholly,

so I may burn with love for You—

ever brightly and clearly.

34.

Who could not praise You?

Who could not call You Love—

when You love even Your enemies?

To lost and fallen creatures

estranged by sin,

You give Your own heart in love—

as their true Help, their dearest Portion,

forever blessed and refreshed,

rescued wholly from ruin.

35.

Who could not exalt You—

who through great trials

remainest always what You are:

pure Love, Mercy,

a Fount of Blessing in Your Son, Jesus Christ?

Great Love of God, sweetest Love,

give me the grace to love You rightly,

and may all call me blessed as the lover of Love.

36.

Who could not love You—

who would not practice love—

when You are so supremely kind?

You let us taste You,

and reveal Your heart to us

in Your Son, Jesus Christ.

There we are refreshed—

there we are wholly drawn in—

we cry aloud with heart and mouth

at such a time:

A depth without measure!

37.

No one can comprehend the depth

who has not seen into

Your essence of love, dear God.

Whoever views Your depths

is wholly inflamed by love—

just one ray touches him,

and he is consumed in warmth.

He who knows Love,

he who loves Love—

shall understand

what I here stammer

in this longing of love.

38.

You Wellspring of pure joy!

You wish to prepare me

for Your banquet of delight and love.

Let me love and praise You here below,

until I may one day above

sing Your full praise—

beside the glassy sea,

sing to the honor of Your name,

new song,

giving You thanks and glory,

playing on the harp's strings.

39.

Let me among Your firstborn

sing a new song following others—

to praise Your great power!

And when You restore the creatures

lost through sin, bringing them back,

so they give thanks to You with joy—

let me then lift my voice,

high in the virgins' choir,

and joyfully sing before You.

40.

Truth, thanks, praise, glory, and might

be to God, the Lord of all works,

from eternity to eternity!

You works in every place made by God's hand—

prepare yourselves

to sing a sweet Gloria to Jehovah

in the tone of love before His throne,

and to exalt His Son on high.

41.

Yes, you also, my soul—

don't hide

the wonders of God

He has already done in you.

What He will yet perform

in all creation,

He has already begun in you—

and carries forward

by His creating Word

until it is perfectly fulfilled.

So sing well:

“To God be praise, glory, and honor alone!”

42.

He is indeed a wise master.

He recognizes and tests all spirits

how they are in their inner core.

He has water and also fire.

He knows to sift the wheat from the chaff

also through His wind.

What cannot be washed,

that He puts on the test,

and heats it very faithfully

until it is pure and the dross is entirely burned away.

43.

He also has very many prisons;

in one the fire burns stronger than in another.

It will be felt what is not burned away in one,

that will be recognized in the other,

when this one is abolished.

It can humble the highly exalted,

those who are pressed down in the dust,

He delivers from it and refreshes them

at the fountain of life.

44.

When you then now want to persist

in your stubborn mind like fools,

be assured and certain that He will finally move you there

with many blows, so that you fall before His feet.

And although you might resist Him

even for many thousands of years,

you must yet finally bow under His gentle yoke.

45.

He will strike you so long with many unheard-of plagues

until your heart surrenders to Him.

But ah! How great sorrow this brings Him in His heart,

that He loves you so fervently,

also in the midst of the pain,

where He leads you in for your humbling and betterment,

and the salvation of His name.

46.

For He is indeed pure love

and remains full of love-drives,

although He plagues the creation,

because all pain and woe aim only toward this

and tend toward this,

that the creation is brought to Him

and in Him shall softly and well rest without end.

Yes, this is His sole purpose, until all pain ends;

He remains righteous and pure.

47.

Ah, therefore, you poor souls,

why do you want to torment yourselves still longer

and plunge deeper into death?

So spare God of love

that He no longer grieves because of your torment and distress.

Perceive His voice and draw near to Him.

Then He also draws near to you

and brings along His kingdom in you.

48.

Then your souls will never lack anything

you only wish and desire.

He will very gladly give you

for your joy and for life.

Then the Lord is loved by you and beloved,

whom you previously grieved.

Do that, and be joyful about it!

Yes, Amen, so be it!

49.

O great God of love,

who are entirely full of love-drives!

Although much has already fallen away from you,

in which then your image has faded,

you still want to make them new through Jesus Christ

and free from corruption.

I thank you for this with heart and mouth,

because you have made known to me your covenant of love.

50.

Who can fathom your love,

or only find such words with which one can express it?

For you are indeed pure love

and entice me out of pure drive to love you,

O dearest love, O highest good.

Let your love-glow inflame me entirely and completely,

that I burn clearly in love forevermore.

51.

Who would not praise you?

Who would not call you love, since you love your enemies?

And to the poor creatures who through sin have lost themselves,

you give your own heart in love to their true salvation,

to their dearest portion,

which eternally makes them happy and highly refreshed,

and entirely delivered from corruption.

52.

Who would not praise you,

since you are in the greatest tribulations always remain who you are,

namely: Pure Love and Mercy,

a fountain of blessing for all the poor in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Great God's love, dearest love,

grant that I may rightly love you and everyone may praise you as love.

53.

Who would not love you,

who would not practice love?

Since you are so very friendly!

When you give yourself to us to taste,

and reveal your heart to us in your Son, Jesus Christ,

then one is rightly refreshed,

then one is entirely raptured.

One cries out with heart and mouth at such an hour:

A depth without ground.

54.

No one can measure the depth

which in your love-essence, dear God, is gazed upon.

Whoever looks into your depth is wholly inflamed by love,

as soon as a ray touches him.

Whoever knows you as love, whoever calls you love,

will understand what I here, in love-desire, have babbled about you,

O dearest love.

55.

You Wellspring of pure joy!

You wish to prepare me for Your banquet of delight and love.

Let me love and praise You here below,

until I may one day above sing Your full praise—

beside the glassy sea,

sing to the honor of Your name,

new song,

giving You thanks and glory,

playing on the harp's strings.

56.

Let me with your first fruits

sing a new song after another to the praise of your great might.

And when you have brought back all the creatures

that through sin have lost themselves,

so that they thank you greatly,

so let me, for your honor,

raise the voice highly up in the chorus of virgins,

and joyfully sing before them.

57.

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be to God, the Lord of all works,

from eternity to eternity!

You works in every place made by God's hand—

prepare yourselves

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So sing well:

"To God be praise, glory, and honor alone!"

59.

So shall the Lamb receive His due,

The joy He saw when He passed through

The winepress of the wrath of God,

And bore for all the chastening rod.

All creatures, called to life and peace,

Shall sing the song of sweet release:

“All things restored, all things made well”